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Congress

WE, THE PEOPLE!

NON-PROFIT NON-PARTISAN



UNITED STATES CITIZENS CONGRESS

1221 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON, D. C. • 20036

"I am in earnest, I will not equivocate, I will not excuse, I will not retreat a single inch, and I will be heard!"

William Lloyd Garrison

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Can We Insure Third Century Survival?

With the nation about to enter its Third Century, it is clear that the United States should mobilize new ideas to meet the problems of the years ahead. The USCC can perform a vital service by helping to stimulate useful new ideas and by acting as a catalyst.

Where do new ideas come from? *Only from the individual.* It is a fact of life that every new idea must *originate* in the mind of some *individual*. Committees or panels can help to refine new ideas but no committee or panel *as a body* has ever created a new idea.

This is one of the secrets of America's greatness. During the past two centuries, the freedom we have enjoyed has permitted the free development of the ideas and enterprises of countless individuals in every walk of life.

But this has not been an unmixed blessing. On the one hand, the ideas and initiative of creative individuals have produced the highest standard of living the world has ever known. On the other hand, the free expression of muddled or misguided ideas—notably in economics and politics—has marred America's image and has placed her standard of living—and possibly her freedom—in jeopardy.

What is the remedy? "You cannot shoot an idea," said Abraham Lincoln. The only antidote to bad ideas are fresh and better ideas.

This is where the USCC can help. It welcomes new and useful ideas from any individual. If they have merit and can withstand scrutiny, the USCC will do its utmost to break down resistance and to secure sympathetic consideration from those concerned. It welcomes new ideas in any field but they must be *original and constructive*.

Ideas are needed to help solve problems, not only of the present time but, —more important, of the

USCC Launches Debate

coming century. Here are just a few examples of the kind of problems we may have to solve in the years ahead:

In Government:

The government has burgeoned into a massive octopus. The media, the trade unions, vested interest groups and bureaucracies exercise disproportionate influence on government. And, historically, democracies have always contained the seeds of their own destruction.

How can we wrest our system of government from these influences?

In Energy:

Long before the end of the coming century, it is evident that the world will run out of petroleum and natural gas—whatever new discoveries may be made. And after two years of debate the Congress has not produced any really-effective *long-term* suggestions.

How can we make our present reserves of oil and natural gas last beyond the foreseeable future?

What risks to environment or safety must we accept to ensure at least enough *electrical* energy in the coming century?

In Transportation:

Though liquid fuels and also gas will be produced—at great expense—from coal shale and agricultural materials, supplies are unlikely to match our present use of liquid fuels and gas. So priority will have to be given to the operation of farm machinery and the transportation of agricultural products on which life itself depends.

How should we plan *now* to deal with this not-too-distant problem?

In Economics:

We have loaded our children and grandchildren with debt which grows each year.

How can we arrest this trend and, if possible, lift some of this burden from the next century?

In Inflation:

Inflation is frequently due to greed—to wanting too much for too little, or sometimes, for nothing in return. This inequity is made worse by politicians who are mortgaging our future?

How can we arrest this trend?

In Defense:

How can we persuade self-serving politicians and the public that if we do not maintain strong defenses we may jeopardize our freedom in the coming century?

In Population Control:

Unless plagues, natural disasters or atomic holocaust intervene, the next century—with its shortages of energy and raw materials—will produce a world population too large to sustain at reasonable standards.

How can we deal with this problem?

* * *

These, of course, are only a few of the problems that confront us. If we do not solve them, our children and grandchildren will be saddled with them.

Ideas for their solution should be sketched in not more than five hundred words—preferably typed and double-spaced. They should be mailed as soon as possible to the Honorable Edward W. C. Russell—U.S.C.C.—1221 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

The USCC hopes and believes that by mid-September it will receive some ideas for the Third Century that merit publication.

The most creative ideas will serve as guidance to the National Convocation of the USCC, tentatively scheduled for November 1976.

WE, THE PEOPLE!

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Gabriele Pitcairn Pendleton

Having accepted responsibilities suddenly put before me, I feel that I owe you an explanation—my reasons to succeed but not replace the widely beloved and highly revered Rabbi Baruch Korff as President of the USCC.

First, I believe the USCC to be the greatest patriotic movement of our time. Its objectives are like planks in a bridge, linking our past and future into a covenant of generations of Americans for God and Country.

Second, my conviction that the USCC has the potential to rally Americans of like persuasion to a cause that has been buffeted by irreverence, stagnation, atheism and outright defiance of the foundations that made this nation the repository of the world's hopes for survival.

Third, my deep compassion for Rabbi Korff, founder of the USCC who shouldered mammoth responsibilities until his health was affected, led me to hope that I could lighten his burdens.

Inadequate as I may be to the tasks that lie ahead, my reluctance to succeed Rabbi Korff was allayed when he pledged to continue at the helm as our ideologue and mentor. My husband, Bishop of The General Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) who has been the personal source of my inspiration for 42 years agreed to my assuming this responsibility. With your help in all 50 states of the Union, the USCC will go forward in the revitalization of our inherent values.

I will in this space keep you posted on all developments that I may enlist your support and earn your trust.

* * *

Admiral Elliott B. Strauss, Chairman of the Board, assisted me in chairing my first Board meeting as President on Wednesday, March 24. I felt as if I were presiding at the first Constitutional Convention, and was awed at the presence of so many dignitaries.

* * *

As your President, I wish to acknowledge the dedicated service rendered by Mr. Jack McLaughlin, who retired as Treasurer of the USCC, and congratulate Mr. Stanley Baer and Ambassador Louise Gore on assuming the offices of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, respectively.

* * *

In our March newsletter, we presented the American people with "Options For Century Three," featuring a Bicentennial Convocation (3rd in a series) for the weekend of July 4th, in our Nation's Capital. *This was found impractical.* The Board voted to name The Honorable

TO OUR READERS

Because of increases in postal rates and other production costs, we have been compelled to combine the April and May issues of the newsletter. Starting with this issue, moreover, *We, The People* will be published on a once-every-two months basis. We regret this and appeal to our readers to give us the wherewithal in contributions and in increased membership in the United States Citizens' Congress to return to monthly publication, thereby giving us sufficient space to comment on the important events of this Bicentennial year.

The Editor

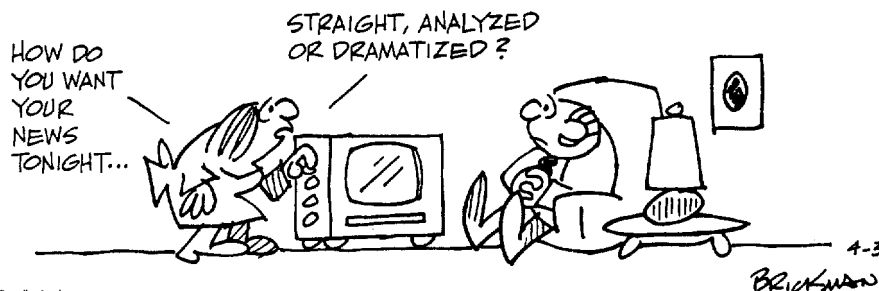
Edward W. C. Russell, The Honorable Carl L. Shipley and Admiral Strauss to study alternatives as to the time and place, as well as to substance. Their conclusions may be found on page 1 of this Newsletter.

* * *

Ideologically, the USCC is without peer among patriotic movements. Yet, I find the USCC struggling financially, despite the fact that no more than 10 percent of the budget is expended on salaries. Frankly, I don't know of any similar National Organization that is so frugal in its expenditure. Won't you please make an extra effort to help us out financially and enlist other patriotic Americans in our cause?

Two gallant ladies deserve mention here, for they are responsible for our low salary profile. They simply put in a full day every day of the week, and frequently full weekends, without salary, to the contrary, they generously contribute of their resources. They are Misses Grace Montgomery and Florence Shute.

the small society



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc.

A Progress Report

RICHARD NIXON

LA CASA PACIFICA
SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA

March 18, 1976

My dear friend,

I was very distressed to learn, through Barry Cooperstein, that you have not been feeling up to par. I just wanted you to know that Mrs. Nixon and I were thinking of you and that we are particularly concerned because we know that the enormous amount of time, effort and dedication you have contributed so unselfishly to the Justice Fund project has, without question, taken a very great physical toll on your health.

We hope that you will be able to get the rest and relaxation you so richly deserve and that you will soon have again the enormous vitality and spirit which we have admired and respected so much since the time we first had the privilege of meeting you.

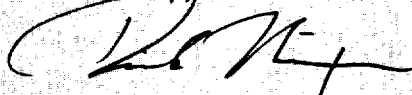
The fact that you have already raised \$300,000 for the Justice Fund in a very difficult time has meant more to us than I can adequately put into words. Without your leadership and your assistance we would have been unable to carry on the constitutional legal battles which we have had to fight from the time I left office on August 9, 1974.

It would be far too much to ask you to continue to bear alone the crushing load of the responsibilities you have been carrying. On the other hand, I would hope that you could find a way to see that the entity of the fund could be maintained with someone else, if you so desire, assuming the day to day responsibilities, but with you continuing to serve in any capacity you choose to the extent your health will permit. There is no one I know who could fill your shoes and whoever you decide might undertake the full-time responsibility would have a very great need for your inspirational leadership and wise counsel.

I can well understand how you might conclude that you have done your share and more in working for our cause at great personal and financial sacrifice on your part. I of course will respect whatever you decide and will always be grateful for everything that you have done. I do hope however that we can find some way which will not impose too great a burden upon you for your continued participation in some capacity in the Just Fund project.

Mrs. Nixon joins me in sending our warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,



Rabbi Baruch Korff
U.S. Citizens Congress
1221 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Constitutional issue of the disposition of the Presidential Papers of President Nixon

The lines have been drawn for the final battle in former President Nixon's effort to preserve the right of the President—rather than the Congress—to control the disposition of materials accumulated by a President and his staff while in office.

A special three-judge panel has upheld the Constitutionality of an Act of Congress which patently discriminates against the former President by expropriating his Presidential materials (including all of his private papers) and deprives him of the same rights which have been recognized and guaranteed for every one of his 36 predecessors.

Based on a careful and thorough analysis of all the legal precedents, we are confident that the Supreme Court will recognize and reverse the error of the lower court. Even the three-judge panel conceded that the statute poses significant Constitutional problems. In fact, the Court openly admitted that the Act invades Mr. Nixon's Constitutional right of privacy. We believe that the Supreme Court will not approve the lower court's failure to follow the standards the Supreme Court itself set to protect the confidentiality so profoundly essential to a President's deliberations.

The first step in the Supreme Court appeal has taken place in late March when attorneys for the former President filed preliminary briefs. The main briefs will be filed this fall and oral arguments to the Court will be presented next winter.

In the interim, planning will continue for the establishment of a Presidential library at the University of Southern California on the assumption that the Act will be declared unconstitutional and that former President Nixon will then be able to place his tapes and papers in a suitable facility where the public will have access under conditions similar to those which currently apply in the Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson libraries.

No other President in the history of the United States has been subjected to the specter of having strangers monitor conversations between him and his wife and family, and systematically rummage through the most sensitive and personal papers imaginable. It is to guard against that kind of crippling precedents that this appeal must be pursued.

From Newsweek—April 19, 1976

■ Your excerpt from "The Final Days" unfairly suggests that ex-President Nixon was anti-Semitic and includes an incident and quotation attributable to me as partial support of this assertion. The record deserves to be set straight.

In many discussions with then President Nixon, I never once found any trace of anti-Semitism. If anything, he admired people of Jewish faith for their intellectual capacity and drive to succeed. Further, in my role as chief recruiter of talent for the Administration, I was never directed not to hire or consider anyone for reason of race, color or creed.

FREDERIC V. MALEK

McLean, Va.

A Brief Response to "The Final Days"

By Rabbi Baruch Korff, Presiding Trustee,
President Nixon Justice Fund
Over ABC-TV Network, "Good Morning, America"

When I began the movement for the Presidency nearly three years ago, Frank McGee of blessed memory asked me—Why? I responded, "There is not a righteous man in the Land disposed to do good who does not sin." This is true now as it was then . . . this is true of Richard Nixon as it was true of Lyndon Johnson and John Kennedy and their predecessors in the Presidency.

The Final Days by Woodward and Bernstein is exploitation by any standard—it is part of the Nixon syndrome, and will go on as long as he lives, and beyond. The authors homogenize particles of fact with metaphor and fiction, hearsay with divination, and hang their purported history on the fanciful nostalgia of pedestrian minds who cleave to the hearsay of Richard Nixon's presidency—as their only alternative to obscurity.

To give credence to their purported history, the authors of *The Final Days* alternately portray Richard Nixon as strong-willed and weak; as a poignant leader and as an un-abashed coward; a man who loses himself in booze and prayer, "increasingly irrational and unpredictable." The thesis being—if you believe one you must believe the other, and the other is what the authors and their mentors at the Washington Post want you to believe!

They say, "A few, including President Nixon, declined to be interviewed." This is patently dishonest. Who are "the few?" Who "declined to be interviewed" in addition to President Nixon? They are Mrs. Nixon, that gallant First Lady, Tricia and Eddie Cox and Julie Eisenhower. There is Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's personal secretary, Col. Jack Brennan, his military aide, and Ron Ziegler, his press secretary. There is Manolo Sanchez, the President's valet, and scores of others—*key people*, whose "words" and "deeds" fill the book.

They visited with Secretary of State Kissinger for half an hour in the presence of two aides. Their visit was recorded. The tape totally refutes the authors. Dr. Kissinger, in several telephone calls to President Nixon, emphatically denies the Woodward-Bernstein text. The au-

thors call it "a diplomatic denial." Gen. Haig sent a telegram to President Nixon stating that he had refused to see the "twins" and gave them no information. Yet Kissinger and Haig are central to *The Final Days*. Unable to extract information from them, the authors engage in mind reading, a form of psycho-journalism.

Haig is purported to have asked Dr. Tkach to remove all barbiturates from Richard Nixon's reach. Dr. Tkach told me he never received such a request from Gen. Haig. "It's preposterous." The authors say that Nixon had a death wish. Dr. Tkach says, "it's a damned lie." Scott Armstrong, an aide to Woodward and Bernstein, had called Dr. Tkach for an interview. Dr. Tkach told him: "Put your questions in writing." "He never did."

The authors say that Mrs. Nixon in 1962, following Richard Nixon's gubernatorial defeat, wanted to divorce her husband. "An outrageous lie," say Roger and Louise Johnson. "We were their most intimate friends."

Lucy Winchester, social secretary to Mrs. Nixon, told me that in 5½ years the First Lady missed only one appointment, and that was due to the flu. "Excessive drinking? Ridiculous," she says. "They called me but I knew they were up to no good. It's garbage and I never talked with them."

I was with President Nixon in the White House and at San Clemente during the most crucial days in February, March, April, May, June, July and August of 1974 and on the morning of August 9 when he delivered his farewell speech to the Cabinet, staff and friends. I sat right in front of him to his right. He was magnificent. I could see none of what is relayed in *The Final Days*. There is not a man who would not have cracked in similar circumstances—but not Richard Nixon, which is why he was "superb" in June, in the Middle East, according to Don Fisher of Time-Life, from his lips to my ears. He was "awe-inspiring" in June-July, in Russia.

I never met Carl Bernstein, but Bob Woodward and his researcher Scott Armstrong came to see me.

Mr. Woodward impressed me as an earnest young man when he said to me that it was not his intent to scandalize Mr. Nixon and that he wanted to write a genuinely humane account of a president under siege. I believed him. We talked for about an hour. The following day, I informed Julie Eisenhower of my meeting with Mr. Woodward and Mr. Armstrong. She identified Armstrong as an Ervin committee aide and suggested that I not see them again. Both Woodward and Armstrong called numerous times but I would not talk with them. Some of their references to me and the chronology of my involvement are inaccurate.

The most serious flaw of the Nixon Administration, and the catalyst for most others, was in-house disloyalty to the President. With some notable exceptions, the White House staffers were little men without vision, untried, raw. Cast in opulence, they were self-seeking, with little or no thought for the man they were there to serve. They were not the President's men. This is why a palace coup d'état could have passed the lips of the President's "confidantes". "Don't tell him to resign—that might stiffen his resistance. Just tell him it's hopeless and have the 'giants' on the Hill give him the bleak count in the Senate." In anticipation of the resignation, some had even staked out their claim on Vice President Ford!

I have told the President many times that he was toppled from within as much as from without. He didn't disagree. If *The Final Days* says anything, it says as much, or the book would not have seen the light of day.

Now, as to the 37th President's place in history. If the past is criterion then his eminence in history is secure. As historians now ask—"Of what infamy was Washington not falsely accused during his lifetime?" Washington himself despaired, "I would rather be in my grave than in the Presidency." And what of Jefferson and Lincoln and what of the immediate past? Hopefully, Americans will view *The Final Days* as they have *Dog Days At The White House*, by the White House kennel keeper.